

In the Matter of the Discipline )  
of the Educator )  
Certificate of Nicole Brown Hill )  
Certificate 179420 )

## CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 9, 2016. On June 30, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Nicole Brown Hill notice that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible disciplinary action against her educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Ms. Hill informed the SCDE that she agreed to waive her right to a hearing and accept a public reprimand. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

Ms. Hill holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over nineteen years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Hill was employed by Spartanburg County School District Three (District) as a special education teacher at Cliffdale Elementary School (School) at the time of the incident. Ms. Hill is currently employed by the District pursuant to the terms of an Employment Letter of Agreement.


On May 20, 2016, Ms. Hill was engaged in an altercation with her stepsister regarding a family matter. This altercation occurred on school grounds during the step-sister's graduation ceremony at the Union County High School. On May 21, 2016, the District placed Ms. Hill on administrative leave for the remainder of the school year. After reviewing this matter, the District found that Ms. Hill's failure to demonstrate restraint was unprofessional and inappropriate. Ms. Hill's continuing contract for the 2016-2017 school year was declared null and void. She is currently employed by the

Nicole  
Brown Hill  
179420  
NBH  
Initial Here  
7-19-2016  
Date

District pursuant to the terms of a one year probationary Employment Letter of Agreement for the 2016-2017 school year.

On June 30, 2016, the SCDE sent notice to Ms. Hill regarding the possibility of disciplinary action against her educator certificate and her right to a hearing by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Ms. Hill informed the SCDE that she agreed to waive her right to a hearing and accept a public reprimand. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

Ms. Hill acknowledges that she has engaged in unprofessional conduct by failing to use appropriate restraint in resolving a family matter. She waives her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Ms. Hill consents to the public reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) the Public Reprimand shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and (3) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's website and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE's Office of General Counsel. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand with the terms set forth above.

Nicole Brown Hill 179420  Initial Here 7-19-2016 Date
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#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004); The State Board may, for just cause, issue a public reprimand. 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-2-160 (Rev. 2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Nicole Brown Hill and that the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Hill by the State Board is an appropriate sanction in this matter. The State Board finds that the record outlined above demonstrates that Ms. Hill engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of the altercation with her stepsister on the school grounds of the Union County High School.

Nicole Brown Hill, Certificate 179420  
Consent Order of Public Reprimand  
August 9, 2016  
Page 3

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Public Reprimand is accepted and a public reprimand is issued to Nicole Brown Hill, certificate 179420. The public reprimand of Ms. Hill, certificate 179420 shall be reported to all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**


South Carolina State Board of Education

  
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Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

August 9, 2016

I, Nicole Brown Hill, S.C. Educator Certificate 179420, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on August 9, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Brown Hill

7-19-2016  
Date